



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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Freezing Temperatures Damaged Apples and Grapes Winter Wheat Lacked Moisture for Development

Field Crops

Freezing temperatures were reported statewide. Cold temperatures and lack of precipitation hindered emerged winter wheat growth and development. A small percentage of potatoes froze and were lost. Nursery producers irrigated ornamental containers to prevent plant desiccation. Christmas tree growers geared up to begin harvest next week. In Clallam and Jefferson Counties, area rivers were at their lowest recorded levels and emergency restrictions were put in place for use of river water.

Livestock

Livestock producers fed additional hay due to cold temperatures and lack of forage in pastures. Many areas of Washington needed precipitation to improve pastures. While fields were dry, dairymen applied liquid manure. Cattle were moved to home ranges, while calves were sent to markets or feedlots. Range and pasture conditions were 12% very poor, 48% poor, 31% fair and 9% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Freezing temperatures damaged grapevines and late varieties of apples. Damage was specifically reported to Pink Lady and Fuji apple varieties. Pear harvest ended. Processing carrot harvest continued with some carrots being culled due to frost damage. Cold temperatures also brought an end to harvest for U-pick pumpkins and squash being left to mature. U-pick pumpkin producers wrapped up the last of their sales for 2002. Greenhouse tomato producers also ended their harvest due to low temperatures.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.7
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	21	48	31	0
Subsoil	9	56	35	0
Irrigation Water	0	1	99	0
Hay & Roughage	1	10	89	0

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	99	99	100	99
Winter Wheat Emerged	91	90	94	95
Potatoes Harvested	98	95	99	99
Corn Harvested	42	35	38	46

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	8	92	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Weather has been sunny, cold and dry. All of the area's rivers were at the lowest levels ever recorded. The Dungeness River had emergency cut off restrictions of water taken out of the river. A mill in Jefferson County temporarily shut down due to the low water conditions. Many ranchers have been feeding hay to livestock much earlier than in past years. Crop yields were down for the year, but none reported to be at disaster levels.

Grays Harbor: Ag producers were in awe as to how little rain fell during the month of October. Measurable precipitation was nearly three inches below average in some parts of the county. Fields were dry and water levels in local streams and rivers were lower than during the summer months. The extremely cold temperatures with sunny afternoons found nurserymen irrigating ornamental container plants to prevent plant desiccation. Dairy men took advantage of extremely dry field conditions to continue applying liquid manure. Livestock producers were feeding additional hay to help compensate for the cold temperatures and also the lack of forage growth. Christmas tree growers were gearing up to begin harvest next week with some concern that a continuation of the cold temperatures may delay the harvest schedule. Evening temperatures in the teens froze greenhouse tomato plants, bringing an end to the harvest season. Home gardeners took advantage of the dry, cold conditions with low humidity to rake leaves and begin sprucing up the home landscape in anticipation of the holiday season.

Pierce/South King: Well, as everyone knows, it has been very cold the past week. With the record lows there has been suspected damage to several crops. Farmers were waiting until the weather warms to see how much damage occurred. Also, several producers have reported damage to their pastures due to the very low rainfall this summer. No other unusual situations to report.

Snohomish/North King: The weather has been drier than normal with temperatures lower than normal. Mornings have been frosty with fog in most areas. Rain was badly needed for ground moisture and to improve air quality. Dry, sunny afternoons were great for the corn mazes and pumpkin fields. No reports of crop losses, only lower yields for corn crops.

Thurston: Unseasonably cold weather resulted in a flurry of activity as ag producers raced to protect pipes and farm machinery from temperatures dropping into the low teens. Some producers reported early morning temperatures of 12 degrees. The cold weather had livestock producers feeding extra hay as there has simply not been enough rainfall this fall to stimulate pasture growth. Nurserymen started irrigating containerized ornamentals to compensate for the lack of precipitation. U-Pick pumpkin farms finished up the last of their sales for the year and breathed a sigh of relief that harvest was over. Growers were pleased with the continued increase in sales over previous years. Organic truck farmers reported continued strong demand for organic produce at the Olympia Farmers' Market. Christmas tree growers expressed some concern that the cold temperatures may delay the start of harvest.

Central

Benton: Single digit temperatures all but ended apple and grape harvest. Some cold damage to grapevines was reported.

Chelan: Record-breaking low temperatures on a series of nights in late October damaged fruit and perhaps trees in Washington. Only the latest harvested varieties were not yet picked. About 3 percent of the apples in North Central Washington were still on the trees when the cold weather occurred. The industry was assessing damage, which will affect a small percentage of growers, those who had the latest harvested varieties and had significant amounts of unharvested fruit.

Douglas/Chelan (2nd Report): Status of the winter wheat crop was 40 percent below normal conditions for this time of year. Dry conditions continued. Moisture was well below normal. Range/pasture conditions were also suffering due to the extended drought. Apple crop harvest was 97 percent complete. Recent freezing temperatures had a serious effect on late apple varieties (fuji/pink lady), which were not yet harvested. Pear crop harvest has been completed, with the crop smaller than normal. Some fruit was of lower quality due to frost marks. However, overall quality was good.

Grant: Some freezing weather destroyed remaining late apple crop (Fuji & Pink Lady). A small percentage of the potato crop was lost due to freezing temperatures. Processing carrot harvest continued with increased cullage due to frost.

Kittitas: Record cold temperatures caused damage to late varieties of apples. Most apples remaining on trees will go to the juice market instead of fresh pack. Precipitation levels for the past 5 months has been extremely low. Rain was much needed.

Okanogan/Ferry: Both Ferry and Okanogan Counties experienced very cold nightly temperatures, with one night of 7 degrees and two nights with a low of 8 degrees. Apple harvest was not completed and the extent of damage due to these low temperatures will not be known until later. Okanogan County will be submitting a flash report to the State Office.

Yakima: Average temperatures have been colder than normal, ranging from average to 20 degrees below average. Reports have been received from several apple growers regarding freeze damage to unharvested apples.

Eastern

Adams: The winter wheat was mostly in fair condition to date, but continued dry and cold conditions were slowing growth and development. Measurable precipitation was needed.

Asotin/Garfield: Record cold nights were recorded throughout the week. Days have been sunny and dry. The cold weather could cause damage to already drought stressed winter wheat plants that are just emerging. Rain was needed for both crops and rangeland.

Lincoln: Winter wheat remained in mostly fair condition despite the continued dry and cold weather conditions. Measurable precipitation was needed to insure adequate crop growth, and to maintain current crop conditions.

Pend Oreille: This week brought new record low temperatures anywhere from -2 degrees to 5 degrees. These temperatures ended all apple picking and all U-pick pumpkin, squash and other crops that were being left to

mature. Weather conditions were also not doing the wheat or bluegrass any good. Cattlemen were feeding supplemental feed due to the poor pasture conditions. Most of the fall work has been completed with a little plowing to be completed.

Stevens: The past week brought more cold, dry weather. Winter wheat emerged, but was in need of moisture for continued development. Cattle producers continued moving cows home and calves to market or feedlots.

Whitman: Cold dry conditions were a cause for concern. Record low temperatures continued to be recorded while the lack of precipitation was evident on thin looking winter wheat stands.

Whitman (2nd Report): Dry conditions continued to be a major concern. The germination and emergence of winter wheat was slow, but more importantly the wheat that had emerged was in dire need of moisture.

**Weekly Weather Statistics
November 4, 2002**

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	21	53	39	-9	0	-7	0	0	0.01	-1.00	1	1.73	-4.06	30	16
Everett	29	52	43	-5	0	-7	0	0	0.05	-0.88	1	1.39	-4.26	25	17
Hoquiam	28	58	43	-7	0	-15	0	0	0.00	-1.94	0	2.61	-7.71	25	15
Kelso	19	59	41	-8	2	-8	0	0	0.06	-1.15	2	1.28	-5.44	19	10
Olympia	14	57	39	-7	0	0	0	0	0.13	-1.34	1	0.92	-6.32	13	14
Seattle-Tacoma	28	56	44	-5	1	-7	0	0	0.06	-1.00	1	0.91	-4.68	16	11
Shelton	17	59	40	-9	0	-7	0	0	0.01	-1.85	1	0.68	-8.32	8	8
Tacoma	18	57	41	-8	0	-7	0	0	0.02	-1.08	1	1.16	-4.55	20	13
Vancouver	20	57	43	-6	1	-6	0	0	0.06	-0.97	1	1.60	-4.04	28	9
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	8	56	30	-12	0	0	0	0	0.10	-0.10	1	0.20	-0.94	18	4
Omak	5	52	28	-13	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	0.15	-1.66	8	5
Stampede Pass	15	39	27	-8	0	0	0	0	0.37	-1.81	2	1.95	-8.96	18	14
Wenatchee	15	61	33	-12	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.18	0	0.39	-0.55	41	6
Yakima AP	4	63	29	-16	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.15	0	0.10	-0.84	11	2
NORTHEAST															
Colville	8	49	30	-11	0	0	0	0	0.05	-0.39	1	0.52	-2.06	20	5
Deer Park	0	46	24	-18	0	0	0	0	0.11	-0.30	1	0.70	-1.47	32	11
Spokane AP	7	50	27	-15	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.36	0	0.78	-1.10	41	9
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	8	57	30	-15	0	-7	0	0	0.04	-0.11	1	0.14	-0.73	16	3
Moses Lake	5	58	29	-16	0	-7	0	0	0.07	-0.08	1	0.15	-0.72	17	3
Quincy	3	60	31	-14	0	0	0	0	0.00	-0.19	0	0.12	-0.88	12	3
Ritzville	8	54	29	-15	0	0	0	0	0.08	-0.20	1	0.32	-1.16	22	5
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	7	61	33	-17	0	-14	0	0	0.10	-0.04	1	0.21	-0.60	26	3
Pasco	9	64	31	-17	0	-12	0	0	0.05	-0.15	1	0.12	-0.86	12	3
Pullman	8	47	30	-14	0	0	0	0	0.57	0.10	2	1.15	-1.48	44	9
Whitman Mission	8	60	30	-17	0	-7	0	0	0.16	-0.17	3	0.54	-1.32	29	8
IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	5	46	27	-18	0	-1	0	0	0.00	-0.56	0	1.19	-1.87	39	6
Lewiston ID	17	52	33	-14	0	-7	0	0	0.52	0.31	3	1.17	-0.60	66	12

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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